

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-20 have been amended. Claims 21-23 have been added. Claims 1-23 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. Claims 1-20 currently stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness double patenting in view of U.S. Patent 6,647,327.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith.

2. Claims 1-17 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,233,506 to Obradovich (hereinafter "Obradovich").

We shall first discuss the present invention, followed by the cited prior art, and then the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art.

I. THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a technique for data exchange in a vehicular multimedia system. The vehicle multimedia system includes an interface unit and a plurality of multimedia units each connected to a data bus in the vehicle. The system establishes a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit, and the interface unit receives, from the multimedia units, requests for the radio connection with the external unit. The interface unit then coordinates/arbitrates requests for a radio connection to the external unit.

II. THE CITED ART

Obradovich discloses an information and control system 100 (see FIG. 1 of Obradovich), which includes a radio/CD device 106b and a TV 106c, each connected to a data bus 107. The system 100 provides a centralized control interface for a plurality of automobile devices. Specifically, the system 100 includes a touch screen display and a central processing element that provides the centralized control for the various automotive devices, including vehicle control (e.g., traction control), device control (e.g., windows, seats, wipers, et cetera) and entertainment devices (e.g., radio, TV, navigation devices, et cetera).

The system disclosed in Obradovich simply discloses a system which integrates the control of a variety of devices located in a vehicle, such as a motor vehicle. Each of the various devices in Obradovich that communicate over a wireless connection to an external unit have their own dedicated transceiver units. That is, a fair and proper reading of Obradovich indicates that the communication devices 106a-106e disclosed in Obradovich each include their own communication transceivers.

III. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE INVENTION AND THE CITED ART

Claim 1 of the present invention recites “*establishing a radio connection between the interface unit and an external unit*” (cl. 1). Claim 1 also recites “*coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit*” (cl. 1). Obradovich neither discloses nor suggests an interface unit that receives requests for a radio connection with an external unit, from multimedia units connected to the data bus. In fact, there is no need to coordinate/arbitrate requests for a radio connection in Obradovich, since each unit that receives and transmits over a wireless communication channel has its own transmitter/receiver. That is, the

communication devices 106a-106e in Obradovich each include their own receiver, and as necessary a transmitter.

The Official Action fails to refer to the claimed features of “*receiving from the multimedia units requests for the radio connection with the external unit*” (cl. 1) and “*coordinating/arbitrating at the interface unit requests for radio connection to the external unit.*” (cl. 1, emphasis add). The claimed invention as a whole must be considered when assessing patentability. Again, Obradovich neither discloses nor suggests arbitrating requests for a radio connection to an external unit. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that Obradovich is incapable of anticipating claim 1.

Claim 6 recites a multimedia system suitable for use in a vehicle and capable of communicating with an external unit. The system includes an interface unit that establishes a radio connection with an external unit, “*...where the interface unit coordinates requests received over the data bus from the multimedia units for radio connections to the external unit.*” (cl. 6). As set forth above, Obradovich neither discloses nor suggests coordinating requests at the interface unit for radio connection to the external unit. Obradovich simply discloses a plurality of communication devices 106a-106e that communicate over a wireline data bus 107 with a processor 105 (see FIG. 1 of Obradovich). Notably, Obradovich neither teaches nor suggests an interface unit having “*that coordinates requests ... from the multimedia units for radio connections to the external unit.*” (cl. 6). Hence, Obradovich is incapable of anticipating the claimed invention.

With respect to claim 13, Obradovich neither discloses nor suggests an interface unit that “*...coordinates requests generated by the multimedia units, the requests being for radio connection with the external interface.*” (cl. 13). Hence, for at least the reasons set forth above, Obradovich is

incapable of anticipating claim 13.

New claim 21 recites a multimedia system suitable for use in a vehicle and capable of communicating with an external unit. The multimedia system includes

“a plurality of multimedia units;
means for establishing a radio connection with the external unit;
a data bus in the vehicle, where the means for establishing the radio connection and the plurality of multimedia units are connected to the data bus; and
where the means for establishing coordinates requests received over the data bus from the multimedia units for radio connections to the external unit.” (cl. 1, emphasis added).

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Obradovich is also incapable of anticipating claim 21.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the remaining claims (i.e., the dependent claims) is now moot since the independent claims are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

In addition, a fair and proper reading of U.S. Patent 6,157,725 to Becker (hereinafter “Becker”) Becker fails to reveal that the control unit, or any other unit, arbitrates requests from other units connected along the bus system for access to an external unit via a wireless channel. Furthermore, U.S. Patent 5,689,252 to Ayanoglu et al fails to either disclose or suggest a control unit, or any other unit, that arbitrates requests from other multimedia units connected along the bus system for access to an external unit via a wireless channel. Ayanoglu discloses a navigation system for an

automotive vehicle. Each unit that requires access to a wireless channel has their own dedicated receiver. For example, the traffic receiver 32 includes antenna 54, while the GPS receiver 26 includes antenna 27.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick O'Shea", is written over a horizontal line.

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